



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing MI 48913

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) protects and enhances Michigan's environment and public health. As stewards of Michigan's environmental heritage, the DEQ works on behalf of the people of the Great Lakes state for an improved quality of life and a sustainable future. In service to the public, we administer programs and enforce laws that protect public health and promote the appropriate use of, limit the adverse effects on, and restore the quality of the environment. We encourage voluntary action to enhance our natural resources and the environment. We preserve biologically diverse, rare, sensitive, or endangered plants, animals, and ecosystems through identification, education, management, and public/private partnerships and initiatives. We advance environmental protection through innovation and improvements to regulations and programs.

Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals

The Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals (OOGM) is responsible for assuring the efficient and orderly development of fossil fuel and mineral resources while protecting the environment, property, and public health and safety. The OOGM oversees the locating, drilling, operating, and plugging of wells used for exploration and production of oil, gas, brine, and other minerals, including wells for underground storage and waste disposal. The OOGM regulates the operation and reclamation of mines for rock products, metallic minerals, industrial sand, and coal. The OOGM also develops and distributes a variety of maps, publications, and data on fossil fuels, minerals, and groundwater for industry and public use.

Oil and Gas Program

The OOGM regulates the locating, spacing, drilling, operating, and plugging of oil and gas wells and the operation of associated storage and disposal facilities. Staff reviews applications and issues permits to drill and operate; conducts inspections; and enforces well construction, spill prevention, and cleanup requirements. The OOGM also regulates production rates for wells to assure the conservation and efficient recovery of oil and gas. There are over 15,600 active oil and gas wells and 3,118 gas storage wells in Michigan. Another 35,000 wells have been plugged as nonproductive or depleted. If the owner of a nonproductive well no longer exists, or simply refuses to plug the well, the OOGM utilized money from oil and gas industry fees and taxes to plug the well and restore the site and takes action to recover the state's costs.

Mineral Wells Program

The OOGM regulates the location, drilling, operation, and closure of minerals wells, which includes wells for waste disposal, brine production, solution mining, storage, and mineral exploration. Staff evaluates applications, issues permits, and carries out inspections, and enforces requirements for construction and operation of mineral wells and associated facilities. There are approximately 183 permitted mineral wells in Michigan, with an average of 10 new wells permitted and drilled per year.

Mining and Petroleum Geology

The OOGM regulates mining in designated coastal sand dune areas. Staff reviews sand dune mining applications and issues permits, evaluates mining and regulation plans, determines financial responsibility requirements, conducts inspections, and enforces regulatory requirements. Approximately 1.9 million tons of dune sand are mined in Michigan each year, providing 30 percent of the nation's foundry sand. The OOGM also regulates mining and reclamation at the metallic minerals mines. Currently, this includes only two iron mines located in the Upper Peninsula; however, there is the potential for additional mines for iron and other metals. The OOGM conducts permitting, inspections, and enforcement of reclamation requirements at these operations.

Cadillac District Office	231-775-3960
Gaylord Field Office	989-731-4920
Kalamazoo District Office	269-567-3500
Lansing District Office	517-373-7055
Mining and Petroleum Geology	517-284-6826
Saginaw Bay District Office	989-894-6200
Southeast MI District Office	586-753-3700
Upper Peninsula District Office	906-346-8300
Minerals Wells	517-284-6841
Permits and Bonding	517-284-6826
Orphan Wells	517-284-6832

For Assistance:

OOGM staff located in several district and field offices carry out the field activities associated with OOGM programs. This includes responding to complaints, conducting compliance inspections, processing permit applications, and providing local customer service contact points. Field staff is located throughout the state:

Copies of the laws and rules for OOGM programs, as well as other geological resource information and publications, are available by contacting OOGM at 517-284-6826.

Copies of all the rules and regulations under the purview of the OOGM are available on-line on the Geology in Michigan page

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Office of the State Geologist
517-284-6823

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to the MDEQ Office of Human Resources, PO Box 30473, Lansing, MI 49809